

AI - VII - A - 015
Old Opera House
Frostburg

1876

The Old Opera House was built in 1876 by the architect J.T.H. Paul, son of the original proprietor Mr. Thomas Paul. It consists of a three story rectangular main block flanked by matching wings on either side that are two stories high. The combined facade is nine bays wide and features American Common Bond brick construction. The entire structure is topped by a shed roof supported by scrolled brackets. The roof line of both the main building and the two wings is interrupted by a triangular pediment, the central one having the date of construction inscribed on it. Although the first story of the building has been considerably altered, it was originally used for a theater and the offices of "professional gentlemen."

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Old Opera House

AND/OR COMMON

Lyric Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

22, 24, 26 East Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Frostburg

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☒ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

William F. Spates & John Spates

Telephone #: 689-6519

STREET & NUMBER

78 Frost Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Frostburg

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21532

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #: 424

Folio #: 367

STREET & NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

AL-VII-A-015

CONDITION

—EXCELLENT
XGOOD
 —FAIR

—DETERIORATED
 —RUINS
 —UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

—UNALTERED
XALTERED

CHECK ONE

XORIGINAL SITE
 —MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lyric Building is located at 22, 24, 26 East Main Street in Frostburg, Allegany County on the northeast side of the street between the intersections of Broadway and Uhl Street.

The Lyric Building or Old Opera House consists of a three story rectangular main block flanked by a wing on each side that are two stories high. The combined facade is nine bays wide and features American Common Bond brick construction. The general construction is influenced by the ~~transitional Greek Revival~~ Italinate style of architecture. Evidence of this style are found in the plain walls, the brick covered foundation and also the plain water table. The shed roof which is supported by scrolled brackets and architrave on the front southwest side also support this style of architecture. The main block upper level features battlements along both sides of its roof outline, while the lower two levels exhibit a flat stepped parapet with an entrance covered with a flat hood opening to the parapet from the upper level. The entrance to the structure on the ground floor front southwest side has all been replaced and now features commercial glass display windows and recessed glass doors. The windows on the front southwest face of the facade are double hung wooden gothic sash with two-over-two lights and a partial hoodmould over each sash. The windows along the sides and rear of the structure are plain double hung wooden sashes with two-over-two lights. Along the front top of the structure are found three peaked cupolas one on each of the main blocks with the center peak exhibiting the date of construction. Two chimneys which are the original corbeled brick outlets from the original steam heat are found in the interior of the structure.

The Opera House is structually sound but has been somewhat altered by the present commercial and apartment use which originally used for the theater and offices of "professional gentlemen."

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE**PERIOD**

☐ PREHISTORIC
☐ 1400-1499
☐ 1500-1599
☐ 1600-1699
☒ 1700-1799
☒ 1800-1899
☐ 1900-

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
☐ AGRICULTURE
☒ ARCHITECTURE
☐ ART
☐ COMMERCE
☐ COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING
☐ CONSERVATION
☐ ECONOMICS
☐ EDUCATION
☐ ENGINEERING
☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
☐ INDUSTRY
☐ INVENTION

☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
☐ LAW
☐ LITERATURE
☐ MILITARY
☒ MUSIC
☐ PHILOSOPHY
☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

☐ RELIGION
☐ SCIENCE
☐ SCULPTURE
☒ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☒ THEATER
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES 1876

BUILDER/ARCHITECT J.T.H. Paul

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lyric Building often referred to as the Old Opera house was constructed in 1876 by the architect J. T. H. Paul, son of the original proprietor Mr. Thomas Paul. The structure was originally built for the purpose of a public hall. The structure included four store rooms, a restaurant, office space, several apartments and the main public hall which was located in the center block starting at the second floor of the structure. The structure provided entertainment for people both near and far and "was one of the most inviting places of entertainment in the State. Indeed the agents of several leading companies had already allowed it a high position in the scale of popular and attractive houses."¹ Not only the significance of entertainment, but also the fact that no other building in the town of Frostburg had been constructed in a similar manner makes the architecture of the building significant. The facade is structurally sound and the opportunity for restoration is excellent. The only major alterations have been made on the ground floor where commercial businesses have moved in. Restoration of this particular structure would certainly enhance the cultural and architectural heritage of the town of Frostburg.

¹Frostburg Mining Journal, "Pauls Opera House" Vol. V No. 36, May 27, 1876

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allegany County Land Records, Cumberland , Maryland
 "Paul's Opera House", Frostburg Mining Journal;
 Volume V, Number 36, May 27, 1876.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 72' x 165'

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

22, 24, 26 East Main Street

Boundary Lines Southwest & Northeast 165' Lines Southeast &
 Northwest 72'

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John E. Nelson, Program Coordinator of All. Co Historic Sites

ORGANIZATION

Allegany County Historic Sites Survey

DATE

4/21/76

STREET & NUMBER

10 Park Lane

TELEPHONE

689-8486

CITY OR TOWN

Frostburg

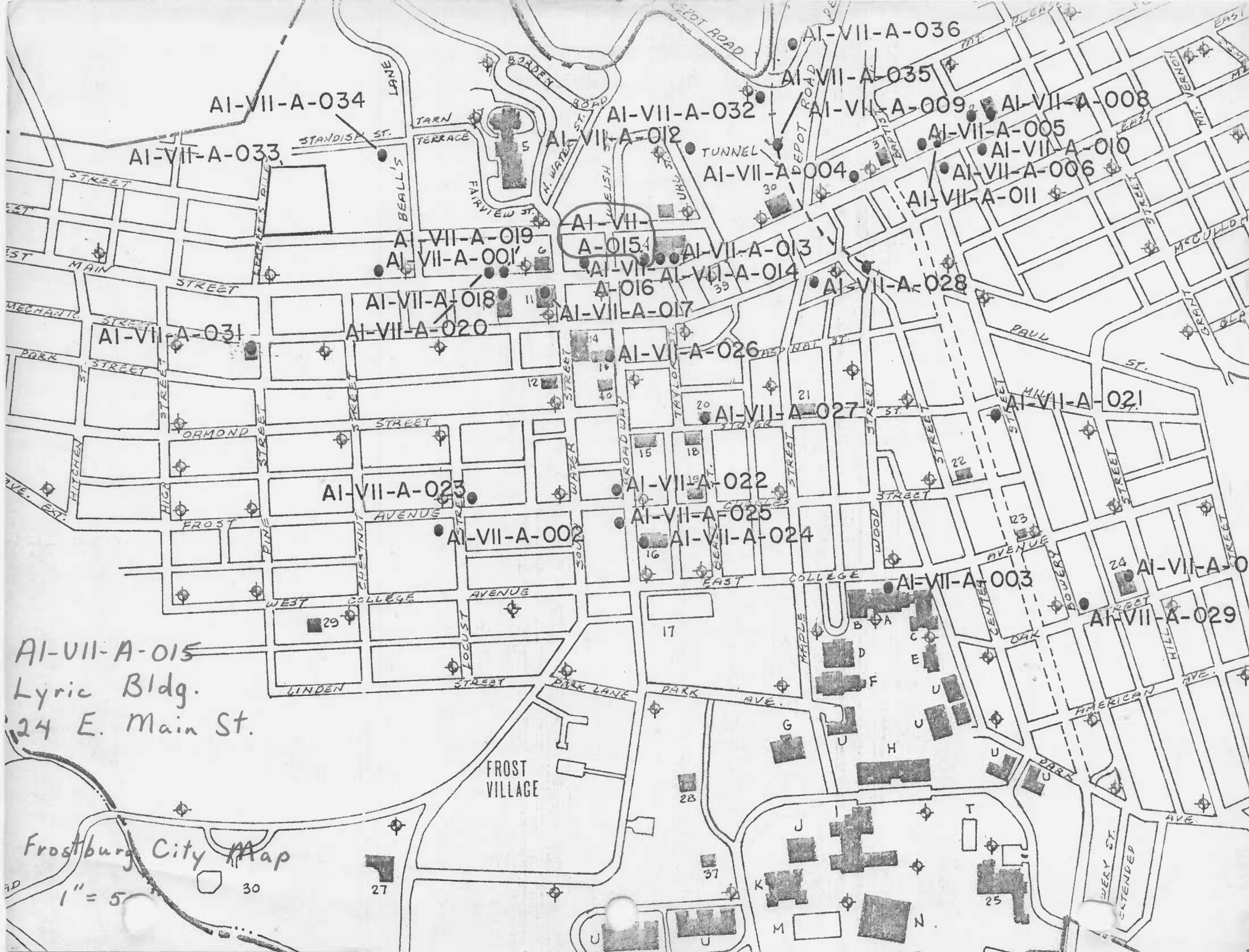
STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438



AI-VII-A-034

AI-VII-A-033

AI-VII-A-012

AI-VII-A-032

AI-VII-A-036

AI-VII-A-035

AI-VII-A-009

AI-VII-A-008

AI-VII-A-005

AI-VII-A-010

AI-VII-A-006

AI-VII-A-011

AI-VII-A-015

AI-VII-A-019

AI-VII-A-001

AI-VII-A-013

AI-VII-A-014

AI-VII-A-016

AI-VII-A-017

AI-VII-A-018

AI-VII-A-020

AI-VII-A-031

AI-VII-A-026

AI-VII-A-027

AI-VII-A-021

AI-VII-A-023

AI-VII-A-022

AI-VII-A-025

AI-VII-A-024

AI-VII-A-002

AI-VII-A-003

AI-VII-A-029

AI-VII-A-015

Lyric Bldg.

24 E. Main St.

Frostburg City Map

1" = 5'



Lyric Building

A1-VII-A-015

24 East Main St. Frostburg

John E. Nelson

4/13/76

East

FIGURE 66



AL-VII - A-015

LYRIC BUILDING (OLD OPERA HOUSE)

FIGURE 66

4/13/76 - John Nelson